

**Health Equity Task Force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 3:30 – 5PM**

**Members in Attendance:** Dr. Milagros Abreu, Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Michael Curry, Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, Dr. Cassandra Pierre, Dr. Frank Robinson, Jeffrey Sanchez, Dr. Assaad Sayah, Hiram Shah, Beverly Stables, Rep. Chynah Tyler, Rep. Donald H. Wong

**Members Excused:** Senator Julian Cyr (represented by Chief of Staff, Patrick Johnson) and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez

Co-Chair Dr. Assaad Sayah opened the meeting and welcomed Health Equity Task Force members and the public then reviewed the open meeting law requirements for remote virtual meetings.

Co-Chair Michael Curry conducted a roll call to confirm attendance and that participants could hear the proceedings. This was followed by an approval of the minutes for the December 16, 2020 Health Equity Task Force meeting. A review of the agenda for the meeting was conducted.

Task Force members reviewed a series of updates.

Led by Co-Chair Michael Curry, Task Force Members briefly discussed the COVID-19 vaccination plan, the public awareness and education needs relative to vaccine information and acceptance, and the need for vaccination site locations and strategies in diverse communities highly impacted by COVID-19 in partnership with trusted community organizations.

Dr. Milagros Abreu provided an announcement of an upcoming Prostate Cancer Awareness Event on February 25, 2021. Registration is via: <https://www.admetech.org/12th-prostate-cancer-awareness-day-02-25-2021/>

Joan Quinlan was welcomed as a consultant to the Task Force to support the development of the Final Report. Co-Chair Dr. Assaad Sayah provided a brief overview of the future work of Task Force in developing the Final Report. Task Force members continue their leadership working in subgroups on recommendations by the areas of charge in Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020, as follows:

Charge 1: Dr. Cassandra Pierre, Rep. Donald Wong, Rep. Chynah Tyler

Charge 2 and 3: Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, Beverly Stables, Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, Hiram Shah

Charge 4 and 5: Dr. Frank Robinson, Dr. Cassandra Pierre, Dr. Milagros Abreu, Rep. Donald Wong

Charge 6: Michael Curry, Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, Dr. Frank Robinson

Charge 7 and 8: Hiram Shah, Senator Julian Cyr, Dr. Assaad Sayah, Jeffrey Sanchez, Rep. Carlos Gonzalez (note as of February 1, 2021: Rep. Liz Miranda is joining this subgroup).

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah introduced a robust panel discussion on Panel 1: Telehealth, Digital Equity, and Health Equity Zones. Presenters included:

- Adam Delmolino, Director of Virtual Care & Clinical Affairs at MA Health and Hospital Association and convener of tMed Coalition

- Christina Severin, President and CEO, Community Care Collaborative
- Brendan Abel, Esq., Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, MA Medical Society
- Jennifer Hawkins, Executive Director, One Neighborhood Builders, Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Frank Robinson introduced panel presentations for Panel 2: Cross-Sector Digital Equity and Inclusion. Panelists shared their current digital equity initiatives and recommendations and included:

- Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, Superintendent, Lynn Public Schools
- Stratton Lloyd, Executive Vice President and COO, Essex County Community Foundation
- Paul Foster, Chief Information and Accountability Officer, Springfield Public Schools and Founding Member, Digital Equity Alliance.

The meeting closed with special thanks to panelists for sharing their expertise and evolving cross-sector and public-private partnership opportunities for digital equity and inclusion.